Leslie Nielsen, Rest In Mirth

Paper in Brazil devotes entire front page,
humanely appropriate for genius, instead
of down notches in Google’s news machine

under goings-on in harlotry, or
gaudy trade embracing Washington,

a burg tsunamied by vicious clowns
with freshly-engorged pockets.

Clueless onscreen, he saw his characters
through sly actor’s eyes, as did others
portraying knockabouts in Shakespeare,

or Peter Sellers dealing Strangelove
multiplicities. At bottom, we surely

must pose the serious question
distancing slapstick genres: When

authorities grow crazy and venomous-
ly scattered, what then? The homicidal
shove arrives from the Right just now.

It can reverse, and then the Left admonishes
“Do what you’re told, if you desire living
with your witty integrity.”